

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 71, 73 and 74 are presented for consideration. Claim 71 is the sole independent claim. Claims 75 and 77-89 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 71 and 73 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants note with appreciation that claim 89 was indicated as containing allowable subject and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In order to expedite allowance of the subject application, Applicants have substantively incorporated the features of claim 89 in independent claim 71. Claim 89 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants submit, therefore, that independent claim 71, as well as claims 73 and 74 depending therefrom, should be deemed allowable.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

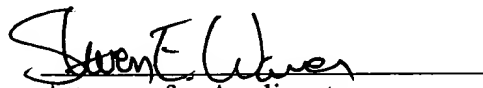
Claims 79 and 86 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,208,700 to Harris. Claims 75, 77, 78, 80, 81, 87 and 88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Harris patent. Applicants submit that the cited art does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention, as previously recited in claims 71, 73-75 and 77-88. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Nevertheless, as discussed above, Applicants have substantively incorporated the subject matter of allowable claim 89 in independent claim 71. Accordingly, all claims pending in the application, namely, independent claim 71 and claims 73 and 74 depending therefrom, should be deemed allowable.

Applicants submit, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested. In this regard, Applicants request that the Examiner contact their undersigned representative should any matters be deemed outstanding precluding allowance of this application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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